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CONSTITUTION.

Order of Stars and Stripes,

Incorporated April 16, 1874.



WASHINGTON, D. C.
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1880.

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CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

This Association shall be known as the Order of the Stars and Stripes, and the several organizations of the same shall be known as "The Subordinate Council," "The State Council," and "The National Council," of said Order.

ARTICLE II.

SECTION 1. A Subordinate Council may be formed in any place where five or more such persons as are hereinafter described may wish to become members of this Order. Sec 13

SEC. 2. "The State Council," while in session, shall select such place for its next meeting as may seem best for the interests of the Order in its own jurisdiction.

SEC. 3. "The National Council" of the Order shall forever remain in the City of Washington, in the District of Columbia.

ARTICLE III.

SECTION 1. Any person who served in the land or naval forces of the United States during the late rebellion, who was honorably discharged therefrom, and has since remained faithful to the Union of the States, shall be eligible to membership in this Order.

SEC. 2. The son of a soldier, sailor, or marine, upon furnishing proof of his father's service in the army or navy during the late rebellion, as provided in this Article; who is eighteen years of age; has always been, and now is, faithful to the Union of the States, shall also be eligible to membership in this Order.

SEC. 3. Each Subordinate Council shall fix the amount

of initiation fee and dues in such sums as may in its discretion be deemed advisable. Mortuary and sick benefits may be paid if a Council shall so decide.

SEC. 4. If any member shall be in arrears three months, he shall be notified by the Secretary, and if he remains in arrears one month thereafter, such member shall not be considered in good standing, nor shall he be allowed to vote on any question before the Council, and at the end of sixty days from date of notification of such arrears, unless they shall have been paid, his name shall be dropped from the rolls of this Order.

SEC. 5. No member shall be expelled from this Order, except as hereinafter provided for contempt, without written charges have been preferred in the Council to which he belongs, a fair trial, and two-thirds of all present voting for conviction; said trial to be had within thirty days from date of said charges.

SEC. 6. If a member shall be dropped from the rolls and be again admitted, he shall pay the fees prescribed in Section 3 of this Article.

SEC. 7. If any member shall be granted a transfer card, and shall die before becoming affiliated with another Council of this Order, he shall be held as being a member in good standing of the Council which granted such transfer: *Provided*, That four months have not elapsed since the date of such transfer.

SEC. 8. On balloting for the admission of any person, if one black ball appears the applicant shall be suspended for two weeks; and if, on a second ballot, one black ball still appears, the applicant shall not be eligible to membership until the expiration of three months. If two or more black balls appear, he shall be rejected for six months.

SEC. 9. The right of a member to vote a black ball against the admission of an applicant shall neither be questioned nor debated.

ARTICLE IV.

SECTION 1. When it is desired to institute a Council of

this Order, five or more such persons as are described in Sections 1 and 2, Article 3, shall make written application to the State or National Council, furnishing proof of the statements therein contained; and if approved, a charter shall be issued, and the Council shall be instituted in accordance with the forms, manner, and customs of this Order.

SEC. 2. Upon the institution of a Council, the members present shall choose their officers, who shall take their seats and serve until the first annual meeting thereafter, at which time a new election shall be held, as hereinafter provided.

SEC. 3. Every Council having twenty members in good standing on its rolls shall be entitled to one representative in the State Council, and one additional representative for each additional twenty members, or major fraction thereof, who are in good standing in the Council.

SEC. 4. Each Council shall forward to the Secretary of the National Council a quarterly report, with number of members in good standing. *See Sec 1, Art 15 Const 76*

ARTICLE V.

SECTION 1. The designation of the Officers of the Council in this Order shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Marshal, and two Guards. These officers, except the Guards, who shall be appointed by the President, shall be elected by ballot, by majority vote, at the annual meeting of the Council.

SEC. 2. The standing committees of the Council shall be a Finance Committee of three members and an Executive Committee of five members, who shall be elected by ballot, by majority vote, to serve until their successors shall be chosen and qualified.

SEC. 3. When any officer of a Council, or any delegate to either the State or National Council, or any member of a committee, whether elected or appointed, shall absent himself from the meetings of his Council for two months, except in case of sickness, such person shall be consid-

ered as vacating his office, and no member who has absented himself from the regular meetings of his Council for the space of two months previous to an election shall be eligible to any office in the same.

SEC. 4. Should a vacancy occur in any elective office, from any cause, such vacancy shall be filled by election, for the balance of the unexpired term, at the next regular meeting after such vacancy has been declared, and due notice of such election given.

ARTICLE VI.

SECTION 1. The President shall preside at all meetings, shall receive the password from the proper officer, and impart the same to members of his own Council only. He shall carry into execution all laws and decrees of the Council not in conflict with the Constitution and work of this Order.

SEC. 2. The Vice-President shall discharge the duties of the President in his absence.

ARTICLE VII.

Any member of the Order cited to appear before his Council to answer charges regularly made and proceedings had, as laid down in the "Manual" under "Charges and Trial," who shall refuse to heed the order of the Council, and shall fail to present himself at the time specified in said notice, shall be adjudged guilty of contempt toward this Order; he shall be summarily expelled from the Council; other Councils shall be notified of said action, either directly or through the State Councils. The expelled shall not be treated any more as a member; neither shall an application from him to be again admitted ever be considered in any Council of this Order.

ARTICLE VIII.

SECTION 1. The regular meetings of the Council shall be held once each month, or oftener, as each Council may decide.

SEC. 2. The annual session of the Council shall take place on the first regular meeting in November of each year.

SEC. 3. Each Council may adopt By-Laws for its own government, not in conflict with this Constitution.

Insert art 20. Const of 76

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STATE COUNCIL.

SECTION 1. When twenty-five Councils, each having twenty or more members, shall have been organized in any state, the National Council shall order an election for Delegates to form the State Council for said State, and shall give notice of the time and place for the first meeting of the same.

SEC. 2. The State Council shall be composed of Delegates in the ratio of one for each Council having twenty members, and an additional Delegate for each additional twenty members in good standing, or major fraction thereof, and its first meeting shall be held under authority from the National Council.

SEC. 3. The annual meeting of the State Council shall be held on the first Wednesday in December of each year.

SEC. 4. Called meetings may be held, when so ordered by either the National or State Executive Committee.

SEC. 5. The State Council shall have no jurisdiction outside its own State.

The State Council shall, at its annual meeting, forward to the Secretary of the National Council the number of Delegates in attendance, a list of its officers for the ensuing year, together with a full report of number of Councils in the State and the total membership of the same.

NATIONAL COUNCIL.

SECTION 1. The grand body of this Order shall be styled THE NATIONAL COUNCIL of the Order of the Stars and Stripes, and shall meet annually on the 15th day of January, when the same does not fall on Sunday; in that event it shall meet on the succeeding day.

SEC. 2. The National Council shall have power to charter State and Subordinate Councils; to determine all questions relating to the Order that may be submitted to it by other Councils, either by agreement or appeal; to prescribe and enforce a uniform mode of work, and to perform such other duties for the good of the Order as would properly devolve upon a representative body. In all things relating to the Order the National Council shall have supreme legislative, judicial, and executive authority under this Constitution.

SEC. 3. The National Council shall consist of representatives from each State in which the Order exists, in the ratio of *one* for each State Council, and *one* for every two hundred members, and *one* for a final fraction of more than one-half that number—such members being in good standing and resident within the jurisdiction of the State Council.

SEC. 4. The elective officers of the National Council shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and an Executive Committee of one from each State represented, who shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting of the National Council, and shall perform the duties of their respective offices until their successors are duly elected and have signified their acceptance of the same. The President of the National Council shall be *ex officio* a member of the Executive Committee.



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